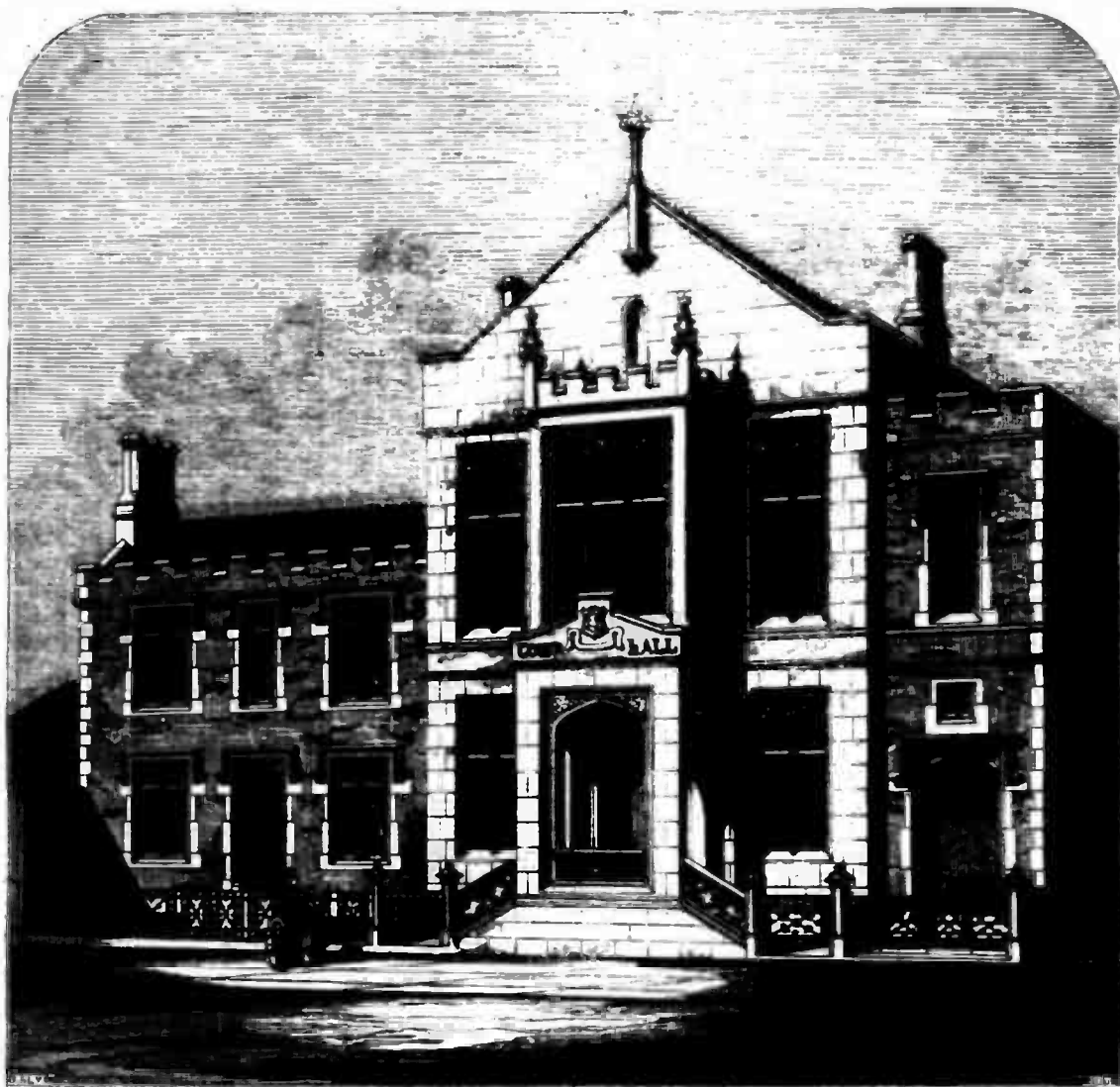


TOWN-HALL, ST. MATTHEW'S, BETHNAL GREEN.—MR. SIMMONDS, ARCHITECT.



hardest, the strongest, and least subject to decay or rot. The White Pine is far inferior in strength, and more subject to rot; but, in fact, the most useful. The Spruce seldom comes in size for timber, and, when used in shipbuilding, is given to very early decay.

N. G.

NEW TOWN-HALL, ST. MATTHEW'S, BETHNAL-GREEN.

This building, one of the first of the kind built specially for the purpose of rendering it unnecessary to hold meetings in the church, has been recently erected by the Commissioners for Improving the Parish, from a design by Mr. G. H. Simmonds. The builder was Mr. John Perry, of Hackney. The building consists of a board-room on the upper story, 38 ft. 6 in. by 26 ft. in clear of main walls, with four bays with tracery-headed windows, one being in front over the porch, and three at the rear. On the ground story there is a committee-room, 26 ft. by 13 ft. 6 in. with three bays; at the rear of the board-room a waiting-room, 30 ft. by 9 ft. 6 in.; a clerk's office, 11 ft. 6 in. by 9 ft. 6 in.; and a fire-proof closet. Domestic offices and cellars are formed under the whole. The entrance to the committee-room, &c. on the ground story, is in the centre; that to the board-room at the side (which is approached by a stone staircase).

The front of this, as also the residence for the surveyor of pavements on the other side, is finished with red bricks and stone dressings, which, with the front of the board-room and offices, are of Caen stone. The cost of the erection, including the surveyor's house, inclosure walls, and fittings, was 3,200*l*.

SCULPTURE FOR THE MANSION- HOUSE, LONDON.

Our readers were informed that the attention of the Common Council had been drawn to the entire absence of any specimens of the fine arts in this building, even where the architect had evidently originally designed convenient situations for such ornaments. In the Egyptian Hall, which forms the principal apartment, there are sixteen niches in the side walls, where doubtless the architect intended sculptured groups or figures should be placed. The City architect, Mr. Bunning, proposed "That some of our first-rate sculptors be applied to for statues in plaster, so that the niches be at once filled, and that they be remunerated for so doing by giving an order to one or more of them in each year for a statue in marble (to displace those in plaster) representing some passage from our national history, or from the works of our English poets."

He has since reported that the proposal

could be carried out at an expense of about 700*l*. per subject; and adds,—"I cannot refrain from expressing the delight I feel that the corporation, in the midst of their important business transactions, should consider the encouragement of this branch of the arts as worthy of their attention and patronage; and I am sure it will reflect great credit on this committee, that from them the suggestion will have emanated. The patronage of the corporation will excite gratitude in artists, admiration in the public, and give encouragement (so much required in this country), to art in general."

The General Purposes Committee have recommended the Court to adopt the proposition, in which recommendation we sincerely concur.

THAMES EMBANKMENT.—The Commissioners of Works are empowered by an Act of Parliament, which has just been printed, to construct an embankment and public road, to extend from Vauxhall-bridge to the Chelsea-gardens. What improvement this may be for the public has yet to be seen.

MONUMENTAL.—Rauch, the sculptor, has finished a design for a monument of the late King of Hanover, which, having been approved, is to be immediately executed in marble.